

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EUR-25 NIC-01 M-03 A-01 SY-10 SCA-01 VO-03

PPT-02 RSR-01 /142 W

----- 055530

R 141425 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0074

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0640

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI CONVICTION THAT USG INVOLVED IN
ISRAELI RAID IN BEIRUT

1. REFERENCE IN QADHAFI' S SPEECH OF MAY 13 TO USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE APRIL 10 ISRAELI RAID IN BEIRUT COMES AS ONLY A MILD SURPRISE. A SENIOR AND RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEE OF THIS EMBASSY REPORTED DURING THE PAST WEEK THAT THE LOCAL SECURITY FORCES HAVE CALLED IN A NUMBER OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF THIS AND OTHER EMBASSIES HERE AND THREATENED THEM WITH NON- RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS UNLESS THEY PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE EMBASSIES AND WHOM THEY SEE. WHILE WE THOUGHT AT FIRST THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS UNIQUE IN GETTING THIS ATTENTION, IT NOW APPEARS THAT OTHER EMBASSIES ARE AFFECTED AS WELL. IN TALKING TO A LOCAL OF THE DUTCH EMBASSY, THE POLICE TOLD HIM THAT THEIR REQUEST IS BASED ON QADHAFI' S CONVICTION THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAD A MAJOR ROLE IN THE ISRAELI RAID THERE.

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THIS REPORTAGE OF QADHAFI' S VIEW WOULD APPEAR TO BE CONFIRMED BY A CONVERSATION OF AN EMBASSY LOCAL EARLIER IN THE MONTH WITH SULAYMAN SHU' AYB, QADHAFI' S BROTHER- IN- LAW AND THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF ENSURING THAT LIBYA' S ARABIC- IN- PASSPORT DECREE IS RIGIDLY, OR AT LEAST ANNOYINGLY, ENFORCED. SHU' AYB SAID AT THE TIME THAT HE BELIEVES THE USG WAS INVOLVED IN THE BEIRUT RAID, ADDING THAT QADHAFI DOES TOO. WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH MAN FORMED HIS OPINION FIRST, BUT THE RESULT IS THE SAME, AND QADHAFI' S MENTION OF THE MATTER AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONSTRUED AS INDICATIVE OF HIS CONVICTION RATHER THAN AS HIS SPEAKING FOR EFFECT.

JOSIF

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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